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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)

Expanded Interconnection with)
Local Telephone Company Facilities)

CC Docket No. 91-141
Transport
Phases I & II

Transport Rate Structure and Pricing)

CC Docket No. 91-213

Amendment of the Part 69 Allocation)
of General Support Facility Costs)

CC Docket No. 92-222

Amendment of Part 36 of the)
Commission's Rules and Establishment)
of a Joint Board)

CC Docket No. 80-286

ORDER

Adopted: November 24, 1992

Released: November 25, 1992

Allocation of General Support Facility Costs (CC Docket No. 92-222)

Comment Date: December 4, 1992

Reply Date: December 21, 1992
(no change)

Expanded Interconnection - Separations (CC Docket Nos. 91-141 and 80-286)

Joint Board Comment Date: December 21, 1992

Joint Board Reply Date: January 22, 1993
(no change)

Expanded Interconnection - Transport - Phase I (CC Docket No. 91-141)

Comment Date: January 14, 1993

Reply Date: February 19, 1993

Transport Rate Structure and Pricing (CC Docket No. 91-213)

Comment Date: February 1, 1993

Reply Date: March 9, 1993

Expanded Interconnection - Transport - Phase II (CC Docket No. 91-141)

Comment Date: March 3, 1993

Reply Date: April 2, 1993

By the Chief, Policy and Program Planning Division, Common Carrier Bureau:

1. The United States Telephone Association, Inc. (USTA) has requested that the pleading cycles in the above-captioned proceedings be

restructured.¹ USTA proposes no changes in the comment dates in the proceeding on the allocation of general support facility (GSF) costs² and the Joint Board proceeding on the separation of expanded interconnection costs.³ USTA proposes extending the comment dates in the Transport Rate Structure and Pricing proceeding⁴ and in Phases I and II of the Expanded Interconnection proceeding.⁵ Under USTA's proposal, comments in Phase I of the Expanded Interconnection proceeding would be due on January 8, 1993, and replies would be due on February 9, 1993; and comments in Phase II of the Expanded Interconnection proceeding would be due on February 24, 1993, and replies would be due on March 26, 1993. Comments in the Transport proceeding would be due on March 30, 1993, and replies would be due on May 7, 1993, more than six months after release of the recent order.

2. In support of its request, USTA states that the schedules in these proceedings require a large number of filings, including comments, tariff filings, and petitions for reconsideration, within a short time frame. Given the novelty of the issues and the complexity of the required tasks, USTA argues that a restructured pleading cycle would promote more efficient use of resources by the Commission and the parties, and would not affect the pace of policy implementation. Several parties, including LECs, competitive

¹ Motion to Restructure Pleading Cycles by the United States Telephone Association (Nov. 10, 1992).

² Expanded Interconnection with Local Telephone Company Facilities and Amendment of the Part 69 Allocation of General Support Facility Costs, Report and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CC Docket Nos. 91-141 and 92-222, FCC 92-440 (released Oct. 19, 1992) (Expanded Interconnection Order), ¶¶ 267-69. The comment date on the allocation of GSF is December 4, 1992 and the reply comment date is December 21, 1992.

³ Expanded Interconnection with Local Telephone Company Facilities and Amendment of Part 36 of the Commission's Rules and Establishment of a Joint Board, CC Docket Nos. 91-141 and 80-286, FCC 92-441 (released Oct. 16, 1992) (Expanded Interconnection Notice), ¶¶ 54-55. The comment date on separation of expanded interconnection costs is December 18, 1992, and the reply comment date is January 22, 1993.

⁴ Transport Rate Structure and Pricing, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CC Docket No. 91-213, FCC 92-442 (released Oct. 16, 1992) (Transport Order and Notice). Comments are due on December 18, 1992, and replies are due on January 21, 1993.

⁵ Expanded Interconnection Notice, ¶¶ 1-53. Comments on Phase I are due on December 4, 1992 and replies are due on December 21, 1992. Comments on Phase II are due on December 21, 1992, and replies are due on January 22, 1993.

access providers, and interexchange carriers, filed comments generally supporting USTA's proposal.⁶

3. While we do not routinely grant extensions of time,⁷ we believe that USTA has shown good cause for a limited extension of time. There are an extraordinary number of filings due during December and January in these proceedings, as well as possible petitions for reconsideration and activities related to the tariff revisions reflecting the policies we have adopted concerning expanded interconnection and transport. We believe, however, that USTA's proposed comment and reply dates for the Transport proceeding would result in undue delay. Instead, we restructure the pleading cycle in a manner that ensures that both the Expanded Interconnection and Transport proceedings move forward in a timely manner.

4. We therefore adopt the following schedule:

December 4, 1992: Comments on Allocation of GSF Costs (CC Docket No. 92-222) (no change)

December 21, 1992: Reply comments on Allocation of GSF Costs (CC Docket No. 92-222) (no change)
Comments to Joint Board on Separation of Expanded Interconnection Costs (CC Docket Nos. 91-141 and 80-286) (no change)

January 14, 1993: Comments on Expanded Interconnection for Switched Transport (Phase I) (CC Docket No. 91-141)

January 22, 1993: Reply comments to Joint Board on Separation of Expanded Interconnection Costs (CC Docket Nos. 91-141 and 80-286) (no change)

February 1, 1993: Comments on Transport Rate Structure and Pricing (CC Docket No. 91-213)

⁶ MCI Telecommunications Corp. Comments (Nov. 24, 1992); MFS Communications Co., Inc. Comments (Nov. 24, 1992); Ex Parte Letter from Lisa M. Zaina, General Counsel, Organization for the Protection and Advancement of Small Telephone Companies, to James D. Schlichting, Chief, Policy and Program Planning Commission (Nov. 20, 1992); Rochester Comments (Nov. 16, 1992); Sprint Communications Co. Comments (Nov. 20, 1992) (generally supporting USTA proposal but suggesting modifications to schedule that would slightly advance date of Transport comments and slightly postpone date of Transport replies); WilTel, Inc. Comments (Nov. 16, 1992).

⁷ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

February 19, 1993: Reply comments on Expanded Interconnection
for Switched Transport (Phase I)
(CC Docket No. 91-141)

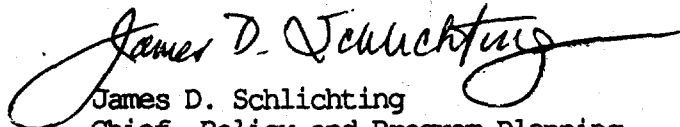
March 3, 1993: Comments on Expanded Interconnection --
Competitive Switched Access Networks
(Phase II) (CC Docket No. 91-141)

March 9, 1993: Reply comments on Transport Rate Structure
and Pricing (CC Docket No. 91-213)

April 2, 1993: Reply comments on Expanded Interconnection
-- Competitive Switched Access Networks
(Phase II) (CC Docket No. 91-141)

5. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the USTA Motion to Restructure
Pleading Cycles IS GRANTED to the extent provided herein, and otherwise IS
DENIED.⁸

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION


James D. Schlichting
Chief, Policy and Program Planning
Division, Common Carrier Bureau

⁸ This action is taken pursuant to Sections 4(j) and 5(c) of the
Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(j) and 155(c), and
authority delegated thereunder pursuant to Sections 0.91 and 0.291 of the
Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91 and 0.291.